CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method for transmitting a message over the Internet comprising:

      receiving on a server a communication transmitted from a first connection device in a communication medium of said first connection device;

      converting said communication from said medium of said first connection device into a communication medium of a second connection device;

      transmitting said converted communication to said second connection device; and

      wherein said communication medium of said first connection device and said communication medium of said second connection device are different.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the medium of said first connection device is text and the medium of said second connection device is voice.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the medium of said first connection device is voice and the medium of said second connection device is text.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a computer and said second connection device is a telephone.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and said second connection device is a computer.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a computer connected to the Internet and the communication medium of said computer is text and wherein said second connection device is a telephone connected to the public switched telephone network and the communication medium of said telephone is voice.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a telephone

2   connected to the public switched telephone network and the communication medium of

3   said telephone is voice and wherein said second connection device is a computer

4   connected to the Internet and the communication medium of said computer is text.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a computer and said

2   second connection device is a pager.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a computer and said

2   second connection device is personal digital assistant.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is computer and said

2   second connection device is cellular telephone operating the small messaging system.

1   11.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is telephone and said

2   second connection device is a pager.

1   12.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and said

2   second connection device is a personal digital assistant.

1   13.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and said

2   second connection device is a cellular telephone operating a small messaging system

1   14.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a personal digital

2   assistant and second connection device is a computer.

1   15.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a personal digital

2   assistant and said second connection device is a telephone.

1   16.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a cellular telephone

2   and second connection device is a computer.

1   17.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first connection device is a cellular telephone

2   and said second connection device is a telephone.

1   18.   A method for transmitting a message from a telephone to a computer over the

2   Internet, comprising:

3   establishing communication over the public switched telephone network from said

4   telephone to a server on which voice recognition software resides for converting a voice

5   message to text;

6   utilizing said voice recognition software to convert a voice message spoken into

7   said telephone into a text message; and

8   connecting said text message to the Internet through a gateway which adds TCP/IP

9   protocol for transmitting said text message across the Internet to said computer as a text

10   message.

1   19.   A method of transmitting a message from a computer to a telephone over the

2   Internet, comprising:

3   establishing communication over the Internet between a computer and a server on

4   which software resides for synthesizing a voice message from said text message;

5   utilizing said software to convert said text message to a voice message; and

6   connecting said voice message to the public switched telephone network for

7   transmitting said voice message over the public switched telephone network to said

8   telephone.

1   20.   A process for transmitting a message from a first connection device to a second

2   connection device over the Internet, comprising:

3   establishing communication from said first connection device to a server on which

4   software resides for converting said message from a communication medium of said first

5   connection device to a communication medium of said second connection device;

6   utilizing said software to convert said message from said first communication

7   medium to said second communication medium; and

8   connecting said converted message through a gateway to a network on which said

9   second connection device is connected to transmit said converted message to said second

10   connection device.

1   21.   The process of claim 20 wherein software for controlling said process resides on

2   said server, said method further comprising:

3   checking validation information included in said message from said first

4   connection device against a data base to verify that said message was generated by a user

5   authorized to use said process.

1   22.   The process of claim 21 wherein said data base comprises a storage structure in

2   which a plurality of rows of data may be utilized to store information about a user, and a

3   first row is identified by an index identifier and subsequent rows of information regarding

4   said user are identified by a key referring to said first row of data.

1   23.   Apparatus for transmitting a message over the Internet comprising:

2   a server for receiving a communication transmitted from a first connection device

3   in a communication medium of said first connection device;

4   means residing on said server for converting said communication from said

5   medium of said first connection device into a communication medium of a second

6   connection device;

7   means for transmitting said converted communication to said second connection

8   device; and

9   wherein said communication medium of said first connection device and said

10   communication medium of said second connection device are different.

1   24.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the medium of said first connection device is

2   text and the medium of said second connection device is voice.

1   25.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the medium of said first connection device is

2   voice and the medium of said second connection device is text.

1   26.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a computer and

2   said second connection device is a telephone.

1   27.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and

2   said second connection device is a computer.

1   28.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a personal digital

2   assistant and said second connection device is a telephone.

1   29.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a cellular

2   telephone and second connection device is a computer.

1   30.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a cellular

2   telephone and said second connection device is a telephone.

1   31.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a computer

2   connected to the Internet and the communication medium of said computer is text and

3   wherein said second connection device is a telephone connected to the public switched

4   telephone network and the communication medium of said telephone is voice.

1   32.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a telephone

2   connected to the public switched telephone network and the communication medium of

3   said telephone is voice and wherein said second connection device is a computer

4   connected to the Internet and the communication medium of said computer is text.

1   33.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a computer and

2   said second connection device is a pager.

1   34.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a computer and

2   said second connection device is personal digital assistant.

1   35.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is computer and said

2   second connection device is cellular telephone operating the small messaging system.

1   36.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is telephone and

2   said second connection device is a pager.

1   37.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and

2   said second connection device is a personal digital assistant.

1   38.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a telephone and

2   said second connection device is a cellular telephone operating a small messaging system

1 39.   The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said first connection device is a personal digital

2   assistant and second connection device is a computer.

1 , 40.   Apparatus for transmitting a message from a first connection device to a second

2   connection device over the Internet, comprising:

3   a server on which software resides for converting said message from a

4   communication medium of said first connection device to a communication medium of

5   said second connection device;

6   means for establishing communication to said server from said first connection

7   device; and

8   a gateway for connecting a message converted by said software to a network on

9   which said second connection device is connected to transmit said converted message to

10   said second connection device.

1 41.   The apparatus of claim 40 further comprising:

2   a data base having a storage structure in which a plurality of rows of data are

3   utilized to store information about a user, and a first row is identified by an index identifier

4   and subsequent rows of information regarding said user are identified by a key referring to

5   said first row of data; and

6   means for checking validation information included in said message from said

7   first connection device against said data base to verify that said message was generated by

8   a user authorized to use said apparatus.